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RAPID EXPANSION OF METAL CYLINDERS UNDER EXPLOSIVE LOADING I TUDIES OF INITIAL EXPANSIONS WITH THE ROTATING MIRROR CAMERA

4 February 1953



U. S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY
WHITE OAK, MARYLAND

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RAPID EXPANSION OF METAL CYLINDERS UNDER EXPLOSIVE LOADING I STUDIES OF INITIAL EXPANSIONS WITH THE ROTATING MIRROR CAMERA

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The expansion rates of steel and aluminum cylinders (2.0 inch inside diameter with wall thicknesses between 0.0 to 0.5 inch) when accelerated by detonation of Composition B explosive filling have been studied before a rotating mirror-:: 11t camera. These data are desired for an accurate determination of initial framment velocities and accelerations. A comparison is made of the observed values, the Gurney velocities, and the fragment velocities measured on the NOL fragment velocity range. By proper choice of the Gurney constant, the velocities calculated by the Gurney formula may be brought into good agreement with the observed values in the region above 0.05 inches wall for steel, and 0.1 inch wall for aluminum. For thinner cases the observed velocities diverge considerably from the Gurney predicted values. A discussion is given concerning the effectiveness of the rotating mirror camera in fragmentation work and the errors and assumptions which enter into interpretation of the data obtained.

> EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT U.S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY WHITE OAK, MARYLAND

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The work presented in this report has been undertaken for the purpose of investigating initial velocities of fragments coming from expanding cylinders over a range of wall thicknesses down to zero wall. The problem has been considered by earlier workers, but not in detail. References (a), (e), (f), and (g) at the end of this report give the earlier work. This investigation has been performed under Task NOL-Re2c-35-1-53. The data presented and the conclusions drawn are of a preliminary nature.

The authors wish to acknowledge the assistance of T.P. Liddiard who furnished many valuable experimental techniques. The authors also are indebted to D. Panielson and H. Curtis who did much of the experimental work, and T.W. Froyd who assisted in analysis of the data.

EDWARD L. WOODYARD Captain, USN Commander

PAUL H. FYE By direction

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. Knowledge of fragment accelerations and velocities from cases under explosive loading is required in any fragmentation or explosive-metal interaction study. The earlier work of Gurney, Reference (a), has been of considerable value in attempting to predict initial fragment velocities from cylindrical cases. Included in his formula was a multiplying constant which was different for each explosive and was obtained by curvefitting to observed data. It was also stated by Gurney that agreement with experimental velocities would not necessarily extrapolate to zero wall thickness where little data were available. The departure of the predicted Gurney velocities from observed velocities was considered of sufficient importance to be further investigated, because such studies would lead to a more detailed consideration of the hydrodynamic process involved. It could also lead to a better understanding of the fragmentation of cased charges other than those having cylindrical symmetry.
- 2. Conventional methods of measuring fragment velocities, References (b), (c) and (d), are not satisfactory for thin walled cases due to difficulty in observing small fragments in motion. Expanding cylinders have been studied with primacord-shutter camera and exploding flash lamps, Reference (e) through (g). The resolution obtained in this work is, however, rather poor. It was believed that a rotating mirror-slit camera, Reference (h), could be used with greater resolution since a similar arrangement has previously been used successfully with a rotating drum-slit camera to study shock from charges detonated in air, Reference (i). A secondary purpose of the test was to investigate the rotating mirror-slit camera as a fragmentation tool in which the nature of fragment accelerations could be resolved.
- 3. In the present series of tests, fragment velocities after acceleration have been obtained for 2 inch inside diameter steel and aluminum cylinders of different wall thicknesses when expanded by detonation of Composition B explosive. These velocities are compared to the predicted values and the point of departure of the Gurney formula noted. The results obtained are also compared, after application of retardation theory, Reference (j), to the velocities obtained for similar cylinders on the NOL fragment

velocity range. Agreement is good for steel fragments where the retardation effect is fairly well known. The agreement for altuminum fragments also appears to be satisfactory for the amount of information available on this type of fragment. On the basis of other unpublished work at NOL concerning shock reflections in metals, it was expected that velocity jumps would be observed in this method of observing fragment velocities. However, up to the present time, such velocity changes have not been clearly noted. As a matter of definition, by initial case velocity is meant the velocity of initial expansion. Terminal case velocity is defined as that velocity at which the case vents. The terminal case velocity is therefore the initial fragment velocity.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE & COMPUTATIONS

- 49 Test Arrangement. Figure 1 shows the general experimental arrangement used in these tests. The cased charge was mounted on a stand inside the bombproof such that the cross-section of the cylinder to be observed was in the slit line projected out from the camera. The axis of the cylinder was oriented perpendicular to the slit line in a horizontal plane. The cylinder was back-lighted by an exploding wire light source, Reference (k), also located along the projected slit line. A mirror on the stand permitted orientation of the cylinder so that fragments would not fly into the bombproof window which protected the camera. The window was further protected by a thin sheet of lucite which stepped occasional ricochets and fogging by explosive gases.
- 5. A standard rotating mirror—slit camera, Reference (h), outside the bombproof was used to record the expansion. It contains a slit which is perpendicular to the image travel on the film drum. The light and explosive charge were synchronously triggered so that the light flashed just as the detonation swept past the point of the cylinder under observation. A silhouette of the case motion as a y—t plot at the slit line was obtained on the film. Figures 2 and 3 show typical enlargements of the records. The camera was focused on the top surface of the case to give a sharp silhouette. The slit width was that ordinarily used in detonation studies with the camera. The records were considered satisfactory without further adjustment. A still picture of the charge was taken at one end of the film. This picture was used to compute the object—image ratio of the streak record.

- 6. Computation of Velocities. The method by which the camera data were reduced to the apparent case velocities along the slit was conventional. The negatives were enlarged to give a one and a half to double magnification of the original cylinder size and a plot was made of y vs t. Distances along the y direction of the print scaled directly to distances on the plot with multiplication by the magnification factor. The time axis of the camera is a calibrated function of rotor speed and drum radius Thus distances along the t direction of the print scaled directly to time on the plot by use of an accurately known enlarging factor. In this camera, the reflecting surface of the mirror does not rotate on the axis of the film drum, therefore, the magnification is a function of distance along the film. The records, however, were of such a short length that no correction had to be made. (Units changed less than 0.2 per cent over the record). From the y vs t plot the case velocity was calculated at any point as $\Delta y/\Delta t$. Principle interest at this time was in the terminal velocity of the case expansion, is the velocity after acceleration had taken place, and was computed from the straight line region of the records just before the explosive gases vented through the cracks in the cylinder. In most instances this venting point was easy to locate. records also showed the mode of acceleration of the case. It is planned to analyze this phase of the case studies in the future.
- 7. The photographic records gave an apparent velocity along the slit. This, however, was not the true velocity of the expending cylinder. As the cylinder expanded radially it stretched little, if any, along its length. Thus, with respect to the slit, the point of the cylinder orginally under observation moved, after the detonation passed, in the direction of detonation as well as outward. As the expansion increased, the points of the cylinder at the slit came from earlier accelerated regions of the cylinder. The apparent velocity was therefore greater than the true velocity of any one point of the cylinder since the method of recording shortens the time coordinates.
- 8. The case velocities can be computed if it is assumed that the case expands as an inelastic but plastic medium in the manner given by Taylor, Reference (1). The coordinate system is changed from one at rest with the detonation front to at rest with the cylinder or slit. In Taylor's theory, working with the detonation front at rest and assuming steady state conditions, the initial fragment velocity is given by:

 $N_i = 2D \sin \frac{\alpha}{2}$.

Here D is the detonation velocity and \leq is the angle the cylinder wall makes with the cylinder axis after detonation (instantaneous picture of expanding cylinder). Consider now the system with coordinates at rest with respect to the slit. In time Δt the detonation point has moved a distance $\Delta x = 0 \Delta t$ past the slit, taking t equal to zero as the time at which the detonation passes the slit. In this same time, the cylinder has expanded a distance Δy on the slit. From Figure (4) it is seen that

$$\alpha : \arctan \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \arctan \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta \Delta x}$$
.

The apparent velocity, $\underline{\mathcal{N}}_{\rho}$ computed from the photographic negative is

$$N_a = \frac{\Delta Y}{\Delta t}$$
.

Therefore

$$\alpha = \arctan \frac{N_a}{D}$$
,

and the true initial fragment velocity is

$$N_i = 2D \sin \left[\frac{\arctan(\frac{N_a}{D})}{2} \right].$$

DISCUSSION OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

- 9. Extent of Tests. The cases were loaded with Composition B explosive, with cast density of 1.68 grams/centimeter³ and a computed detonation velocity of 7850 meters/second. Expansions for the following cylinders have been obtained:
 - (a) In air. Length, 5.0 inches; inside diameter,2.0 inches; slit location, at center of cylinder.

Wall Thicknesses in Inches

Aluminum	Steel
0.062	0.031
0.125	0.062
0.250	0.125
0.375	0.250
0.500	

(b) In helium (atmosphere pressure). Length; 5.0 inches; inside diameter, 2.0 inches; slit location, at center of cylinder

Wall Thicknesses in Inches
(Aluminum Cases Only)

0.000 (uncased)

0.003

0.005

0.125

0.250

(c) In helium and air. Length 12.0 inches; inside diameter, 2.0 inches; slit location 2.5 inches from free end

Wall Thicknesses in Inches (Aluminum Cases Only)

Uncased in heldum 0.125 in air 0.500 in air

Initiation was by a pentolite-baratol plane wave booster. The aluminum cylinders were machined from 2-S seamless tubing; the steel cylinders were machined from AISI 1045, stress relief seamless tubing in the as-is condition (Rockwell 30-B). Tables I, II, and IXI give experimental apparent and corrected initial fragment velocities for the individual charges. The initial fragment velocities calculated by the Gurney formula for the cylinders are also given for comparison. The average velocities for each of the different conditions are given in Table IV.

10. It is to be noted that there is considerable spread in the results from identical shots. The photographic records can be analyzed to an accuracy of better than 1 per cent. It is further believed that the experimental technique measures velocities to an accuracy of better than 3 to 4 per cent. Therefore, all of the spread cannot be attributed to measurement errors. Actual differences in the velocities may be caused by small variations in the cases, the explosive, and the interaction of explosive gases with the expanding cases. This is a problem even more acute in ordinary fragment velocity measurements where velocity spreads on the order of 25 per cent are obtained for fragments from one case. The test conditions here have been standardized as

far as seemed practicable. The velocities obtained are taken as representative values for individual cases. The representative velocity for any set of experimental conditions is taken as the mean of the individual values. A reproducibility study would be needed to show the validity of this assumption.

- 11. Helium Atmosphere. Air was a satisfactory atmosphere in which to observe the expansion of these cylinders except when the cylinder walls were thin (0.1 inch or so). The shock in front of the expanding cylinder then become so luminous that the cylinder motion could not be followed. Several shots in addition to those giver in Table I have been fired, but they had to be discarded because the records could not be used for this reason. The series of shots in helium were fired to test helium as a substitute atmosphere. There is little or no luminosity from helium in the region of initial expansion, even down to the uncased charges. Hellum, therefore, can be used as the atmosphere whenever air is unsuitable. A little experience will give the wall thickness at which the change from air to helium must be made. The experiment was not accurate enough to detect the difference between expansions into h∍lium and into air for the thicker cases. For the uncased charges, the expansion into air was so masked by shock light that no comparison was attempted. The series of shots with the long cylinders were fired to see if steady state conditions were obtained when the short cylinders were used. was no evidence to indicate a lack of steady state for the short cylinders. This was as expected since plane wave boosters were used for initiation.
- 12. Nature of Results. Figure 5 shows a plot of the initial fragment velocities as a function of case wall thickness. Compared with these are values of velocities for similar cases calculated by the Gurney formula, Reference (a),

$$V = K \left[\frac{C/M}{1 + C/2M} \right]^{1/2},$$

where C and M are the explosive and case weights per unit length respectively, and the constant K has the value 9500 feet/second. Better agreement of the Gurney velocities with the observed velocities is obtained if a value of 8350 to 8500 feet/second is used for K. The fit holds only for the thicker walled cylinders. The Gurney formula does not predict the velocities for cases of wall thickness less than 0.1 inch. Figure 6 gives a comparison of observed initial fragment velocities as a function of equivalent cylinder weight for the

two types of cylinder. It appears that only the mass of the cylinder wall is important in influencing fragment velocities. The physical properties of the wall enter as higher order effects.

14. While the nature of the wall accelerations has been noted, it has not been considered in detail. Figures 7 and 8 show the mean expansions along the slit line for the different cylinders. The acceleration jumps which have been observed here at NOL in studying detonation interaction with thin aluminum plates at normal incidence were not apparent in the case expansions. It may be that in the present experiment, the jumps are not as pronounced as in the plate experiment, or it may be that the resolution of the system is not sufficient for this observation.

with the rotating mirror camera have been compared to the velocities of fragments from identical cylinders measured in the NOL fragment range. Table V indicates the cylinder sizes considered and shows the velocity comparison. The methods of measuring velocities are not identical in that the former gives the initial fragment velocities and the latter gives the velocities about 9 feet from the cylinder. Some type of retardation adjustment must be used to translate the second group of velocities back to the cylinder for direct comparison. Assuming a standard retardation law, Reference (m), the adjustment is

where K is the drag coefficient, A is mean presented area of the fragment, m its mass, 2 the density of air, and 3 the distance of travel. The exponents-K? As and the KA values needed for agreement are given in Table V. For the 0.25 inch steel cylinder these are the values for a roughly cubical fragment of mass 1.5 grams with drag coefficient of 0.4. For the aluminum cylinders the exponents and hence the KA/m values are much larger than experience with steel fragments would indicate. For aluminum fragments as for steel fragments it is believed that K should be somewhere between 0.4 and 0.6. This means that the ratio A/m is large for aluminum fragments implying a large presented area and/or a small mass. The range records show that the larger aluminum fragments travel in a manner to maximize presented area. Recovered fragments show extensive thining of the wall (a low mass). On this evidence the comparisons are considered reasonable.

SUMMARY

- 16. It has been demonstrated that the Gurney formula does not appear valid when very thin cases are considered. The nature of the departure has been shown for 2.0 inch inside diameter steel and aluminum cylinders loaded with Composition B explosive accelerated by a plane wave detonation directed along the axis. It is assumed in the Gurney development that the contribution to the kinetic energy of the system made by the detonation of each unit mass of explosive is the same in all types of projectiles. The kinetic energy per unit length is then equated to the explosive energy. It is also assumed that the gas velocity is proportional to the distance from the axis of the cylinder. However, the Gurney explosive constant. which is proportional to the square root of the explosive energy, must be calculated from experimental data. It is possible that for thin-walled cases, the kinetic energy distribution of the system is changed so that the explosive factor is no longer constant.
- 17. These tests have also demonstrated that the rotating mirror-slit camera can be used profitably to study the problems associated with cylinder expansions and initial fragment velocities. The system does have limitations: (a) only one expansion or velocity is obtained per shot and (b) the range of expansion or fragment travel is small. However, it can be adapted to problem: which cannot be handled otherwise and it will furnish data of a type not duplicated by other means.

TABLE I

ALUMINUM AND STEEL CYLINDER VELOCITIES IN AIR
(2 inch ID; Composition B Explosive)

Case Material	Wall Thickness (in)	Apparent Velocity (m/sec)	Initial Velocity (m/sec)	Gurney Velocity (m/sec)
Steel	0.03125 (1/32)	3290 3390	309 0 318 0	3240 3240
	0.0625 (1/16)	2570 2270 2280 2600 2500	2470 2200 2210 2500 2 ¹ 10	2770 2760 2750 2760 2750
	0.125 (1/8)	1960 2000 1940	1920 • 1950 1900	2200 2190 2200
	0.250 (1/4)	1320 1430	1310 1410	1670 1660
Aluminum	0,0625 (1/16)	4200 4100 4090	3810 3730 3720	3450 3430 3440
	0.125 (1/8)	3060 3030 3390	2900 2880 3180	3090 3110 3110
	0,250 (1/4)	2270 2330 2200	2200 2260 2140	2460 2460 2460
	0.375 (3/8)	1820 19 9 0 1900	1790 1940 1860	2090 2090 2090
	0.500 (1/2)	1610 1560 1500	1590 1540 1480	1830 1830 1830

TABLE II

ALUMINUM CYLINDER VELOCITIES IN HELIUM (2 inch ID; Composition B Explosive)

Wall Thickness (in)	Apparent Velocity (m/sec)	Calculated Initial Velocity (m/sec)	Gurney Velocity (m/sec)
0,0	9580	6720	4090
0,002	9200 8890	6570 6460	4060 4060
0,005	7660 6 73 0	5920 5450	4000 4020
0,125	2990	2840	3070
0.250	2280	2210	5/1/10

TABLE III

TWELVE INCH ALUMINUM CYLINDER VELOCITIES (2 inch ID; Composition B Explosive)

Wall	Apparent	Calculated Initial Velocity (m/sec)	Gurney
Thickness	Velocity		Velocity
(in)	(m/sec)		(m/sec)
0,0	9880	6820	4090
0.125	32 8 0	3080	3010
0.500	1640	1610	1820
	1610	1580	1820

TABLE IV

AVERAGE VELOCITIES FOR ALUMINUM AND STEEL CYLINDERS IN HELIUM AND AIR (2 inch ID; Composition B Explosive)

Case Material	Wall Thickness (in)	Medium	Initial Velocity (m/sec)	Gurney Velocity (m/sec)
Uncased Steel	0.0 0.03125 0.0625 0.125 0.250 0.002 0.005 0.0625 0.125 0.250 0.375 0.500	He Air Air Air Air He He Air He Air, He Air, He Air	6770 3140 2360 1920 1360 6520 5690 3750 2980 2200 1860 1570	4090 3240 2760 2200 1670 4060 4010 3440 3070 2460 2090 1820

TABLE V

COMPARISON OF VELOCITIES MEASURED BY ROTATING MIRROR CAMERA AND FRAGMENT VELOCITY RANGE

Case	Wall Thickness	Initial Velocity (m/sec)	Range Velocity (m/sec)	-Kp As for adjustment	K Am
Steel	0.25	1360	1300	0.041	0,119
Alumin	0.125 0.25 0.375 0.50	2980 2200 1860 1560	1880 1450 1340 1200	0,459 0,417 0,330 0,262	1.326 1.204 0.953 0.758

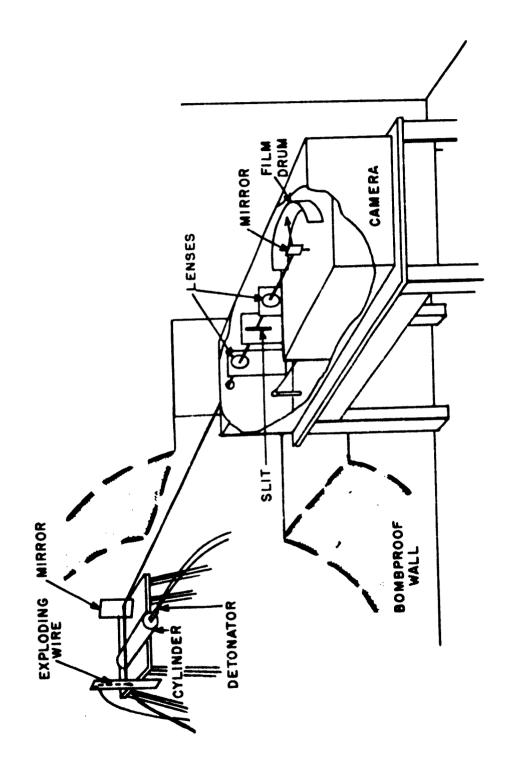


FIG.1 SHADOW TECHNIQUE FOR OBSERVING INITIAL CYLINDER VELOCITIES

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(a) AIR ATMOSPHERE



(b) HELIUM ATMOSPHERE

FIG. 2 COMPARISON OF RECORDS IN HELIUM AND AIR ATMOSPHERES FOR EXPANSION OF UNCASED EXPLOSIVE

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(a) AIR ATMOSPHERE



(b) HELIUM ATMOSPHERE

FIG.3 COMPARISON OF RECORDS IN HELIUM AND AIR ATMOSPHERES
FOR EXPANSION OF 0.005 IN. ALUMINUM CYLINDER
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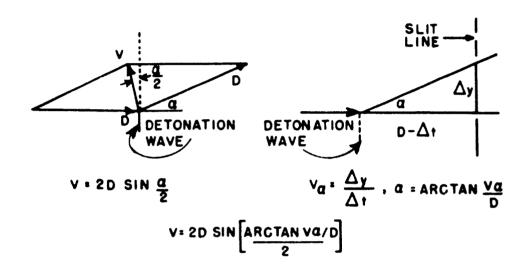
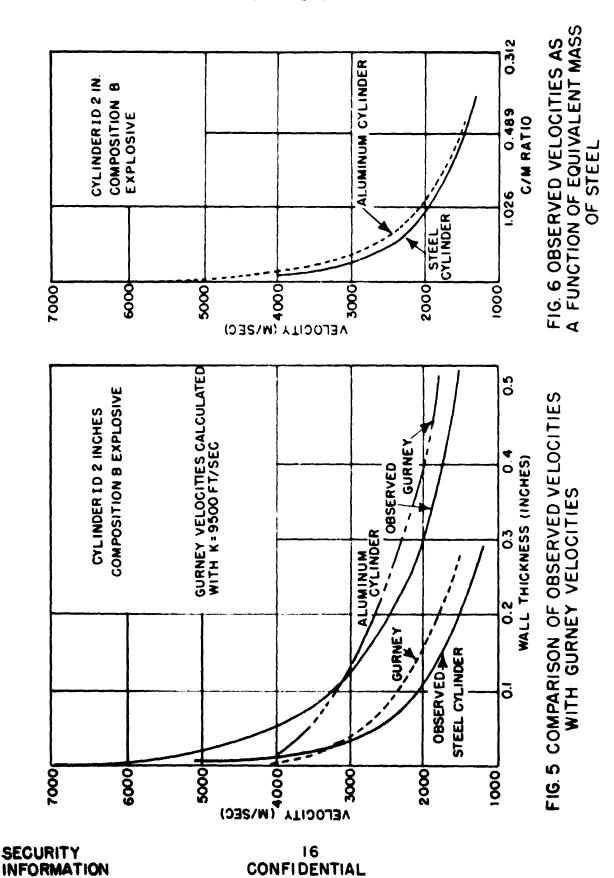
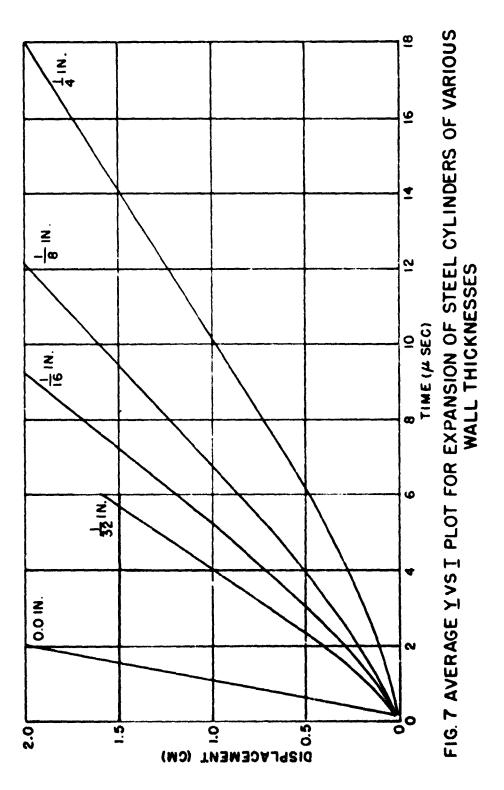


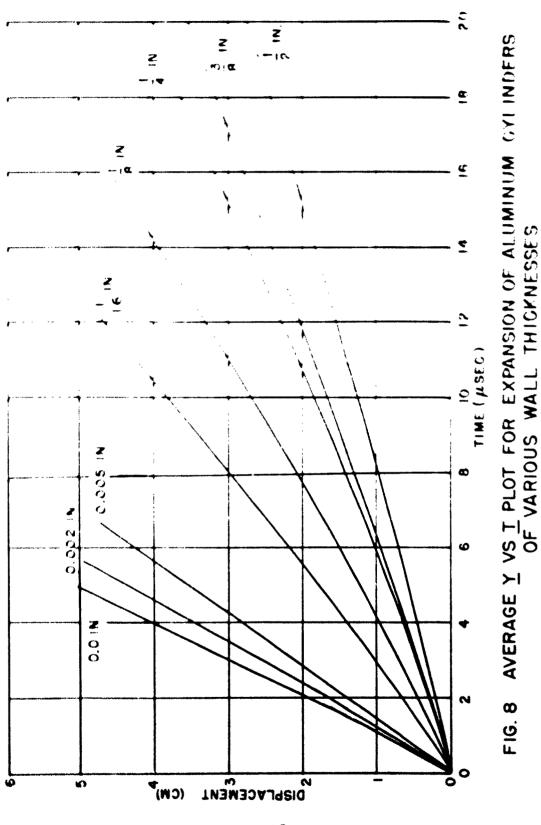
FIG. 4 TRANSLATION FROM MOVING COORDINATE SYSTEM TO FIXED COORDINATE SYSTEM IN CALCULATING CYLINDER VELOCITY





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APPENDIX

ADJUSTMENT OF OBSERVED EXPANSION BECAUSE OF REFRACTIVE INDEX CHARGES

- 1. In the cylinder expansion a shock wave is set up in the air in front of the expanding case. This shock travels outward at a slightly higher velocity than the cylinder as can be seen in Figures 2 and 3. The gas behind the shock front is compressed and therefore has a higher refractive index. This change of refractive index has the effect of apparently increasing the true radius of the expanding cylinder, R₁, to an observed radius R₂, as shown in Figure 9.
- 2. To obtain an estimate of the distortion the shock wave-cylinder configuration of Figure 9 is assumed. It is further
 assumed that the density of air and hence the refractive index
 tehind the shock is constant and that the expension angle of
 the case is small. Then it is seen that

$$\frac{R_2}{R_1} = \frac{\sin t}{\sin r} = \frac{n_2}{n_1} = n$$

$$\frac{\gamma_a}{V_t} = \frac{dR_2/dt}{dR_1/dt} = \frac{n_2}{n_1} = \gamma_1,$$

where nj and no are the refractive indicies respectively in front of and behind the shock, $V_{\rm d}$ is the observed velocity, and $V_{\rm t}$ is the true velocity of the case. The Lorentz relation

$$\frac{\gamma^2-1}{\gamma^2+2}\cdot\frac{1}{\rho}=\text{conse.}$$

will give the change in refractive index across the two regions. Assuming a refractive index of air for standard conditions ($\sim 30^{\circ}$ C, 760 mm) n₁ = 1.00027, then n₂ and $\tau = {}^{m_1/m_1}$, for different values of ρ_1/ρ_1 , where ρ_1 and ρ_2 are air densities in front of and behind the shock, are as follows:

P2/p1	1	5	10	25	50
M ₂	1.00027	1.00135	1.00270	1.00675	1.0135
M	1	1.00108	1.00243	1.0065	1.0133

Thus if f_2/ρ_i is known the distortion can be obtained directly as n.

3. An upper limit to the distortion can be obtained by considering the one-dimension supersonic compressional flow example, Reference (m). This will over estimate the density increase behind the shock point because no account is taken of flow into the diverging volume elements associated with the cylindrical system, and the piston velocity in the flow example is taken considerably greater than the case velocity. In the flow example with $Up/c\gg 1$, where Up is the piston velocity and c is the initial velocity of sound for the gas, the shock velocity and ratio of densities, pressures, and temperatures in front of and behind the shock front are given by

Ushor:
$$\frac{1}{1-\mu^2} \frac{1}{19} = 1.2 \text{ up}$$
 $\frac{\rho_2}{\beta_1}$
 $\frac{1}{\rho_1} = \frac{1}{1-\mu^2} \frac{1}{(\frac{\mu}{\epsilon})^2} = 1.48 \left(\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}\right)^2 = 10 \text{ to } 40$
 $\frac{\Gamma_2}{\Gamma_1}$
 $\frac{\rho_2 \rho_1}{\rho_1 \rho_2}$
 $\frac{\rho_2 \rho_1}{\rho_1 \rho_2}$
 $\sim 1.6 \text{ to } 7$.

Here
 $\mu^2 = \frac{\gamma - 1}{\gamma + 1} = \frac{1}{6}$ for $8 = 1.4$. (air).

The numerical values are for U_D ranging from 2500 to 5000 feet/second. Taking only the change in density

$$\frac{p_2}{p_1} = 6$$
 (const.); $n = 1.00137$.

The distortion would thus be on the order of 0,1 per cent. Note, however, that the heating is considerable. The change of refractive index is not known for such a wide temperature change. Small increases in temperature of a medium at room temperature produces a decrease in its refractive index. It is assumed here

that the large temperature change does not move an absorption band of air close to the light band being observed so that the temperature effect is small. It is believed that the distortion is considerably less than 1 per cent. No refractive index correction has been made for the data.

It is pointed out that while a distorted radius is predicted as the cylinder just starts expanding the shock wave at this time is at the cylinder or only very little separated from it so that the observed radius is the true radius. As the cylinder starts expanding the shock wave is essentially opaque and the shock expansion itself is observed. As the compressed region becomes thicker, refracted light rays can pass over the cylinder through the shocked region beneath the shock front. The shock wave image then separates from the cylinder shadow. It is only after a "steady state" condition is reached (after transition from observing shock radius to cylinder radius) that velocity measurements can be made. Figure 10 compares the behavior of the observed cylinder radius predicted by the formula to that expected from a consideration of refraction in a shocked region with shock velocity 1,2 times cylinder velocity and an effective refractive andex of 1.0065.

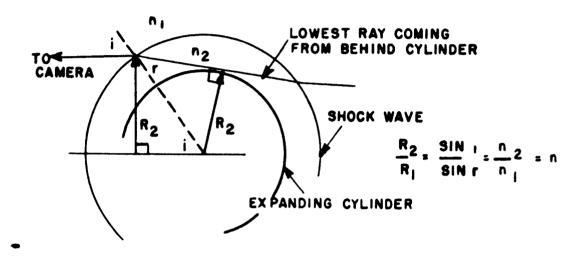


FIG. 9 DISTORTION OF OBSERVED CYLINDER RADIUS PRODUCED BY CHANGE OF REFRACTIVE INDEX

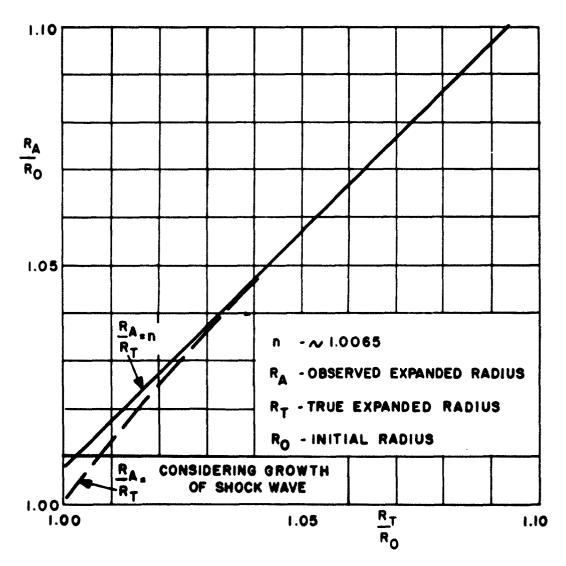


FIG. 10 THE EFFECT OF FINITE INITIAL SHOCK RADIUS ON THE DISTORTION OF THE OBSERVED CYLINDER RADIUS (U SHOCK = 1.2 U CYLINDER)

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